

Appln. No. 09/668,865
Amendment dated April 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-27 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15: Cancelled.

Claim 16 (New). A method for producing a print by exposing an image onto a photosensitive material, comprising the steps of:

extracting character image data and pictorial image data
5 separately from original image data, which originally include said character image data and said pictorial image data;

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applying a first image-processing operation to said character image data by employing a first LUT for converting image values of pixels, represented by said character image data,
10 to first exposure control values, so as to generate revised character-image data, which represent said first exposure control values;

applying a second image-processing operation to said pictorial image data by employing a second LUT for converting

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15 image values of pixels, represented by said pictorial image data,
to second exposure control values, so as to generate revised
pictorial-image data, which represent said second exposure
control values;

combining said revised character-image data with said
20 revised pictorial-image data, so as to generate processed image
data, which include both said revised character-image data and
said revised pictorial-image data; and

forming an output image on said photosensitive material,
based on said processed image data, so as to produce said print.

Claim 17 (New). The method for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 16, wherein said first LUT and said second LUT are
respectively established in such a manner that a character image
5 and a pictorial image, both being included in said output image,
are harmonized with each other.

Claim 18 (New). The method for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 16, wherein said photosensitive material is a silver-halide
photosensitive material.

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Claim 19 (New). The method for producing a print by exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by claim 16, wherein contents of said first LUT can be revised as needed, and a revised first LUT is employed in said step of
5 applying said first image-processing operation, when said first LUT is revised to said revised first LUT.

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Claim 20 (New). The method for producing a print by exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by claim 16, wherein a total range of image data values, included in said original image data, is divided into a first range of image
5 data values for said character image data and a second range of image data values for said pictorial image data, and

wherein said character image data and said pictorial image data are discriminated from each other corresponding to said first range and said second range, before said extracting step.

Claim 21 (New). The method for producing a print by exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by claim 20, wherein said total range of image data values, included

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in said original image data, is constituted by image data regions
5 of 24 bits.

Claim 22 (New). An apparatus for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material comprising:

an extracting section to extract character image data and
pictorial image data separately from original image data, which
5 originally include said character image data and said pictorial
image data;

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a first image-processing section to apply a first image-
processing operation to said character image data by employing a
first LUT for converting image values of pixels, represented by
10 said character image data, to first exposure control values, so
as to generate revised character-image data, which represent said
first exposure control values;

a second image-processing section to apply a second image-
processing operation to said pictorial image data by employing a
15 second LUT for converting image values of pixels, represented by
said pictorial image data, to second exposure control values, so
as to generate revised pictorial-image data, which represent said
second exposure control values;

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a data combining section to combine said revised character-
20 image data with said revised pictorial-image data, so as to
generate processed image data, which include both said revised
character-image data and said revised pictorial-image data; and
an image forming section to form an output image on said
photosensitive material, based on said processed image data, so
25 as to produce said print.

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Claim 23 (New). The apparatus for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 22, wherein said first LUT and said second LUT are
respectively established in such a manner that a character image
5 and a pictorial image, both being included in said output image,
are harmonized with each other.

Claim 24 (New). The apparatus for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 22, wherein said photosensitive material is a silver-halide
photosensitive material.

Claim 25 (New). The apparatus for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 22, wherein contents of said first LUT can be revised as

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needed, and said first image-processing section employs a revised
5 first LUT, when said first LUT is revised to said revised first
LUT.

Claim 26 (New). The apparatus for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 22, wherein a total range of image data values, included in
said original image data, is divided into a first range of image
5 data values for said character image data and a second range of
image data values for said pictorial image data; and

wherein said character image data and said pictorial image
data are discriminated from each other corresponding to said
first range and said second range, before extracting them from
10 said original image data.

Claim 27 (New). The apparatus for producing a print by
exposing an image onto a photosensitive material as defined by
claim 26, wherein said total range of image data values, included
in said original image data, is constituted by image data regions
5 of 24 bits.